

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 /058 W

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R 301640Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1576

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 549

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: ELECTIONS: COMMUNIST-LED STALL CONTINUES

REF: (A) LISBON 5308; (B) LISBON A-4

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE) AND PCP, IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO SLOW DOWN STEADY COMPLIANCE WITH ELECTORAL CALENDAR, HAVE REQUESTED THAT GOP PUBLISH LIST THOSE INELIGIBLE TO VOTE BEFORE FINAL ELECTORAL ROLLS DRAWN UP AFTER FEB 3. GOP HAS RAPIDLY MET REQUEST AND REAFFIRMED INTENTION TO MEET ELECTORAL SCHEDULE. REQUEST IS ANOTHER STEP IN COMMUNIST-LED CAMPAIGN TO CAST DOUBT ON ELECTION RESULTS AS TRUE TEST OF POPULAR WILL. END SUMMARY.

1. PCP-INFLUENCED PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP/CDE) AND PCP HAVE BEEN PUTTING PRESSURE IN LAST FEW DAYS IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY (MAI) TO PROVIDE ALL 4000 PRECINCTS IN COUNTRY WITH LISTS OF THOSE PERSONS INELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS. (AS EXPLAINED IN REFTEL, A FEW THOUSAND PERSONS WHO CLOSE TO, OR COLLABORATED WITH, PREVIOUS REGIME BY LAW MAY NOT ENROLL TO VOTE).

2. VOTING ROLLS NOW ON DISPLAY IN MOST PRECINCTS

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SO THAT INDIVIDUALS MAY VERIFY THAT THEIR REGISTRATION HAS BEEN

RECORDED. PERIOD FOR COMPLAINTS REGARDING OMISSIONS ENDS  
FEBRUARY 3. MDP/CDE AND PCP HAVE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE A CASE THAT  
UNLESS PRECINCTS PROVIDED WITH LISTS OF INELIGIBLES BEFORE FEB 3  
DEADLINE FOR DRAWING UP DEFINITIVE REGISTRATION LISTS, MANY  
"FASCISTS" WILL WEASEL WAY ONTO VOTING ROLLS.

3. THE MAI HAS RESPONDED TO THESE DEMANDS BY SOLICITING LISTS  
OF THOSE INELIGIBLE TO VOTE FROM APPROPRIATE AGENCIES. THESE  
LISTS RAPIDLY PROVIDED FOR MOST DISTRICTS, BUT ARE OBVIOUSLY  
INCOMPLETE. MAI HAS REAFFIRMED THAT ELECTORAL CALENDAR  
(SEE REPAIR) WILL BE KEPT AND THAT FACT THAT CERTAIN  
INELIGIBLES MAY GET ON ROLLS WILL NOT LEAD TO DELAY. INDIVIDUALS  
WHO ILLEGALLY ENROLL, NOTES MAI, ARE SUBJECT TO CRIMINAL  
PENALTIES.

4. COMMENT: MDP AND PCP DEMANDS ARE ANOTHER INDIRECT  
ATTEMPT TO DELAY ELECTIONS BY CALLING FOR ACTIONS WHICH ARE  
DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT. PCP AND MDP DO NOT  
PROBABLY EXPECT TO WIN EACH SPECIFIC DEMAND, BUT RATHER TO  
BUILD UP A CASE FOR CASTING DOUBT IN FUTURE ON RESULTS OF ELEC-  
TIONS, WHICH--IF HELD HONESTLY--ARE WIDELY EXPECTED TO BE  
UNFAVORABLE TO PCP AND MDP.

5. SO FAR ELECTION CALENDAR IS ON SCHEDULE. IF ORIGINAL DEAD-  
LINE OF MARCH 31 WERE TO BE KEPT, ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE  
MADE TOMORROW, SINCE ELECTORAL LAW REQUIRES ANNOUNCEMENT OF  
ELECTIONS SIXTY DAYS IN ADVANCE. CURRENT EXPECTATIONS ARE THAT  
DELAY OF ONE WEEK OR SO FROM MARCH 31 WILL OCCUR. MAI MINISTER  
LTC COSTA BRAS TOLD AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY THAT ELECTIONS WOULD  
PROBABLY BE SCHEDULED IN FIRST TEN DAYS OF APRIL, BUT NO LATER  
THAN APRIL 25 (AS CALLED FOR IN ARMED FORCES PROGRAM).

6. MAJORITY OF GOP STILL WANTS TO HOLD ELECTIONS. MUCH,  
HOWEVER, WILL OCCUR BETWEEN NOW AND SCHEDULED POLLING DATE.  
WHETHER MEANINGFUL ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD MUST BE CONSIDERED MOOT  
IN LIGHT OF AVOWED AFM DETERMINATION TO SEE THAT THEY COME OUT  
"RIGHT".  
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## Message Attributes

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